

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

May 24, 2007

NAVARRO WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, PHASE V REVISION

File No. 98-055-06

Project Manager: Moira McEnespy

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to revise the watershed monitoring component of the Navarro Watershed Phase V Implementation project, approved by the Conservancy in October 2006.

LOCATION: Navarro River watershed, Mendocino County

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Integrated Coastal and Marine Resources Protection

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Coastal Conservancy Staff Recommendation for the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan Implementation, Phase V \(File No. 98-055-06, October 5, 2006\)](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby approves revisions to the watershed monitoring component of the Navarro Watershed Phase V Implementation project, approved by the Conservancy on October 5, 2006, as described in the accompanying staff recommendation.”

Staff recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits relating to the Navarro River Watershed Phase V Implementation project, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The revised project remains consistent with the purposes and criteria set forth in Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
 2. The revised project remains consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.”
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PROJECT SUMMARY:

On October 5, 2006, the Coastal Conservancy authorized disbursement of up to \$172,000 to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (“MCRCD”) to conduct Mill Creek upslope

road sediment reduction and Navarro River watershed monitoring activities, and to implement a watershed awareness signing program, all of which will further implement the *Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan* (jointly published by the Anderson Valley Land Trust, the Mendocino County Water Agency (“MCWA”) and the Conservancy in June 1998, with funding from the Conservancy and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; adopted by the Conservancy on August 6, 1999).

Staff now recommends that the Conservancy authorize revision of the Navarro watershed monitoring portion of the project to reduce the number of sites and the period of time over which watershed monitoring will occur. As presented to the Conservancy in 2006, the project was intended to provide funds needed in order continue, over the next two winters, monitoring that began in 2004 at three watershed sites. MCRCD has now advised staff that it will not be possible or necessary to carry out precisely that extent of monitoring with available funds.

If this recommendation is approved, the description of the monitoring portion of the project included in the October 5, 2006 staff recommendation would be revised as follows (changes indicated by underline and ~~striketrough~~):

“The Navarro River watershed winter monitoring program, Phase II, will be conducted on two ~~three~~ tributaries located in the lower Navarro River sub-watershed (see Exhibit 2 of Exhibit 1): North Fork Navarro at Highway 128; and Flynn Creek at Highway 128, ~~and Mill Creek at Nash-Mill Bridge~~. This project will continue for another two more winter (~~winter 06/07 and winter 07/08~~) a restoration effectiveness-monitoring program developed by the MCWA and UC Davis, with Conservancy and MCWA funding. The program covered most of the first winter (2004-2005) and all of the second winter (2005-2006), and will end in Spring 2006 unless additionally funded. Specifically, the program will:

- Measure flows at the two ~~three~~ stations during up to 5 ~~10~~ storm events.
- Collect water samples to measure ~~turbidity~~, suspended sediment concentration, and bedload sediment.
- Develop rating curves for each station, analyzing and graphing data; contract with USGS to run bedload sediment samples, and with UC Davis to analyze bedload sediment.
- Conduct up to four spawning surveys in each stream each winter.
- Prepare a Final Report.”

These changes reflect a recently-refined understanding by the MCRCD of budget and technical factors. Specifically, monitoring is conducted to get data on flows over 10,000 cfs; for safety reasons, this requires use of a bridge crane (as opposed to wading in on foot). As it is not possible for the contractor to set the bridge crane up at three separate locations during one day’s time (and increasing heavy equipment use over more days would necessitate an increase in budget), MCRCD proposes to use the crane at the two sites from which they currently have the least amount of data. Furthermore, it now appears that the budget will only support one winter’s monitoring. As winter 06/07 has not proven to be wet enough for good monitoring (there has to date been only one storm at 9,000 cfs even approaching the desired 10,000 cfs), these funds can be used to support monitoring in winter 07/08 - which it is hoped will be a wetter year.

This program will also continue in 2007 summer monitoring that has been ongoing to document changes in the Mill Creek channel bed and pool conditions. The following summer monitoring activities will be conducted: Survey of creek cross-sections and longitudinal profiles, measurement of V^* in upper and lower pools (V^* is the ratio of the volume of fine sediment to pool water, and can help hydrologists to estimate the relative mobility of fine sediments in a streambed), and measurement of gravel permeability.

This revised monitoring program remains necessary to determine whether implementation projects identified in the *Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan* are having the desired effects of improving water quality and increasing fish populations. The project remains consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, project selection criteria and guidelines, strategic plan, and other matters discussed in the October 2006 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1).